Under Utilization of Budget allocated for publicity to counter Anti-India propaganda

935. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on publicity and advertisement to counter anti-India propaganda during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry failed to utilize the budget allocation for publicity in 2000-2001 inspite of kargil crisis; and

(c) if so, the reasons for less expenditure for advertising and publicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Presently, only figures for the final amount spent on publicity and advertisement by the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2000-2001 are available. The amount spent under this head during that financial year was Rs. 30.23 crores.

(b) and (c) During the year 2000-2001, while the amount allocated under final estimates for publicity and advertisement at Secretariat was fully utilized, the budget allocated for this purpose to Missions abroad could not be completely utilized. The reasons for the latter included, *inter alia*, postponement of VVIP visits because of unavoidable contingencies, cancellation of publicity-related events, exhibitions and shows due to unfavourable local conditions, disturbed sociopolitical situations in certain countries preventing conduct of normal publicity-related activities, and non-publication of special newspaper supplements or brochures and other publicity material due to prevailing local conditions or postponement of high-level visits in regard to some countries.

Steps taken by India and Pakistan toward restoration of peace

936. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government propose to take to bring peace between India and Pakistan;

(b) the details of the measures that Pakistan took in this regard and whether these measures are satisfactory; and

(c) the observation of international community towards the steps taken by India and Pakistan in maintaining peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) India's approach to relations with Pakistan has always been underpinned by our desire to establish peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with that country. All our policy initiatives including the Composite Dialogue initiated by India in 1998, Prime Minister's visit to Lahore in 1999, and the invitation extended to President Musharraf in May 2001 for summit level talks at Agra, have been underpinned by this objective.

India remains firmly committed to the path of dialogue and reconciliation, which is in keeping with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration Should Pakistan operationalize its intention to move purposefully towards eradicating cross border terrorism, India will be prepared to resume bilateral dialogue to resolve differences and enhance co-operation.

(b) Pakistan continues to pursue an approach towards India that is based on hostility and confrontation. The most obvious manifestation of this is its continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India.

In response to Government's diplomatic and other measures, in the aftermath of December 13 and May 14 terrorist attacks, Pakistan has committed itself to stopping cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, not allow its territory to be used for terrorist activities, or any organisation in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir. Despite its commitments, infiltration and Pakistan sponsored terrorist violence continue on a significant scale. There is also no evidence of any firm attempts being made to dismantle the infrastructure that supports and feeds cross border terrorism, including launching stations, communication centres and training camps.

(c) In the aftermath of December 13, may 14 and July 13 terrorist attacks, the international community has acknowledged Pakistan's involvement with terrorism directed against India, and has called upon Pakistan to fully implement its commitment to end cross border infiltration and terrorism on a permanent basis.